HEA #2
PT-Exhibits

596

MEMO

Subj: Meeting Concerning Congressman Ryan's proposed visit to Guyana - 11-9-78

Present:

J. Spier	Cong. Ryan's Staff
T. Scollert	Gov't Operations Subcommittee (H-IRC)
R. Henderson	L/CA
T. Fortune	L/ARA
F. Henneke	CA
J. Griffin	ARA/CAR
R. Belt	SCS
E. O'Kane	SCS
P. Donaldson	CA

Items Discussed:

Privacy Act implications - legal aspects: a right to request info exists - no right to demand it. Congressional Committee waiver to obtain info and limits on release of info after received explained. Private Privact Act waiver - from individual explained. This waiver may limit release to specific persons - individual's right to privacy vis-a-vis public's right to know.

Access to Individuals- no right to force access if individual does not wish to see the requester. If individual wished to see visitor and P.T. refused to allow such, Dept. would make greater effort through GOG to facilitate access.

Treaty and Comity - expressed info on Amercits in Guyana and GOG assistance in this regard is based on comity. Believe no treaty giving absolute right to Cong Committee to see & speak with individuals in Guyana just because individuals are U.S. citizens and the visitors represent Cong Committee.

People's Temple Stipulations - P.T. has stated that Cong Ryan party will not be allowed to enter Jones-town unless it meets the following:

1. have someone in party sympathetic to P.T.
2. no media
3. M. Lane to be present (it appears that M.L. will not be there 11/14-11/18)

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Complaints by Cong Committee to GOG - Again comity discussed. Also Vienna convention and its purpose and limits. Point made by J. Griffin that if Cong not allowed in P.T. and complaints could [redacted] hamper AmEmbassy's future actions and rapore in re P.T. and GOG.

Freedom of Information Act and its relation to the Privacy Act explained.

Vienna Convention - and other appropriate citations would be provided by L.

Refusal - If not allowed to visit Jonestown letters from Cong could be left at AmEmbassy to check individual on next consualr visit.

Logistics of Trip- - physical difficulties in reaching P.T. discussed. A dangerous trip.

Practical Problems - This could be a no win situation. From J.J. point of view it could be either:
to allow Cong party and for J.J. to point to his power and generosity - i.e.- theory " I have brought Cong to visit with U.S. citizens."
or/ refuse Cong visit and state that Ryan and party part of USG conspiracy to destroy P.T.

Personality and Psychological aspects, mind control in such religious groups discussed. The difficulty in proving individuals wish to leave group when they say they wish to stay was mentioned.

The members of the Cong party were invited back to discuss their findings.